

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/825,939
Amendment Dated 7/5/05
Reply to Office Action Dated 4/5/04

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration. Claim 1 has been amended; claim 4 has been canceled; claims 2-3 and 5-14 remain in the application unchanged. No new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Babineaux (U.S. Pat. No. 5,791,773).

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babineaux ('773).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babineaux ('636) in view of Babineaux ('773) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Noguchi.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babineaux ('773) in view of Noguchi (U.S. Pat. No. 4,562,521).

Claims 6-14 are allowed.

1. Response to Objections to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of canceled Claim 4, including "wherein said spreading frame comprises at least one hook positioned in proximity to said socket assembly base, at least one extension arm respectively having a first end and a second end wherein the first end is attached to and respectively extending from said at least one hook, and at least one retaining mechanism attached at said second end of said at least one extension arm".

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None of the prior art of reference, including Babineaux ('773), Babineaux ('636), and Noguchi, taken either alone or in any combination, meets each and every limitation of Applicant's claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn and that claim 1 is now in position for allowance.

Claims 2-3 and 5 each depend from independent base claim 1 and add further limitations. For at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is not shown, taught, or disclosed by the cited references, Claims 2-3 and 5 are likewise not shown, taught, or disclosed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 2-3 and 5 should also be withdrawn.

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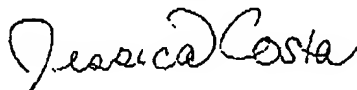
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references cited by the Examiner taken alone or in any combination shows, teaches, or discloses the claimed invention, and that Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this amendment, or should the Examiner believe that it would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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